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PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) Method for cleaning the a nozzle plate of an inkjet printhead comprising the steps of:

providing a solvent on said nozzle plate,
loosening debris collected on said nozzle plate by brushing said nozzle plate in presence of said solvent with a brush,
applying a cleaning solvent to said nozzle plate,
subsequently removing said cleaning solvent and debris from said nozzle plate by vacuum cleaning,
characterized in that the application of said cleaning solvent and said subsequent removal of said cleaning solvent provides a movement of solvent over the nozzle plate.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the solvent is provided on the nozzle plate by bleeding ink from the nozzles.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing said solvent and the step of applying said cleaning solvent ~~is~~ are the same.

4. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said brush is composed of polytetrafluoroethylene, Polypropylene, Polyurethane, or Nylon.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ cleaning of the nozzle plate ~~(1)~~ is performed by ~~the~~ a cleaning module translating over the nozzle plate.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein cleaning of the nozzle plate ~~(1)~~ is performed by the printhead translating over the cleaning module.

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7. (currently amended) Method according to claim -6- 5 wherein the a speed of the cleaning module is between 0.001 and 0.05 meter/sec.

8. Method for conditioning a printhead in an inkjet printer comprising the steps of:
vacuum assisted purging and,
cleaning the nozzle plate according to a method of claim 1.

9. (currently amended) Cleaning module for cleaning a nozzle plate from an inkjet printer comprising:

means for providing a cleaning solvent on said nozzle plate,
a brush for brushing said nozzle plate in presence of said cleaning solvent to loosen debris collected on said nozzle plate,
vacuum cleaning means ~~for removing said cleaning solvent and debris from said nozzle plate~~ and for providing a movement of said cleaning solvent over the nozzle plate, and
for removing said cleaning solvent and debris from said nozzle plate.

10. (currently amended) Cleaning module according to claim 9 wherein the brush is comprised of brush fabric ~~in from~~ a brush unit comprising: -a

a pay-out roll for feeding ~~fresh~~ said brush fabric to the brush,
a brush surface for supporting the active brush, and
a take-in roll for ~~entwelling~~ rolling up used brush fabric.

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11. (currently amended) Inkjet printer having a cleaning module ~~according to claim 9~~ for cleaning a nozzle plate of the inkjet printer, the inkjet printer comprising:

means for providing a cleaning solvent on said nozzle plate,

a brush for brushing said nozzle plate in presence of said cleaning solvent to loosen debris collected on said nozzle plate,

vacuum cleaning means for providing a movement of said cleaning solvent over the nozzle plate, and for removing said cleaning solvent and debris from said nozzle plate.

12. (original) Inkjet printer according to claim 11 further comprising recycling means for recycling the removed cleaning solvent.